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BRITAIN'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON COAL, MANPOWER

Long-Awaited Economic White Paper Issued

Five Objectives For The Year

London, Feb. 21. Britain's "economic future depends upon coal and manpower," the Government declared in a White Paper today. "Unless we concentrate on really important things we may never restore the foundations of our national life," the economic White Paper, long-promised and eagerly awaited, warned.

It said the Labour Government was "ready to modify its plans if a case for doing so is made out."

"It is the duty of any democratic Government to take the people frankly into its confidence, however difficult the position of the country may be," Prime Minister Clement Attlee said in a forward. "Our task is certainly a heavy one but it is possible of achievement if it is faced with knowledge and understanding."

The White Paper listed five objectives for the coming year:

- (1) Defence—reduction of the armed forces from 1,422,700 in December to 1,087,000 by the end of March, 1948 with a consequent reduction in the number of workers to supply them.
- (2) Payment of imports—exports this year must be raised to 140 per cent of the 1938 volume.
- (3) Housing—240,000 new permanent houses and 60,000 temporary houses this year. In addition capital, equipment and maintenance must be up 15 per cent over a normal previous year.

Can't Afford To Fail

(4) Consumption—Food supplies will not increase much this year in England because of world shortages, and shortages in clothing, textiles, pottery and furniture will continue. Progress "inevitably will be patchy."

(5) Public Service—education, public health and national insurance programmes, will go forward—but "with special attention to economy in manpower."

"The achievement of all these objectives depends upon the basic industries and in particular coal, power, steel and transport," the White Paper said. "Failure in any of these, particularly to produce 200,000,000 tons of coal in 1947, will set back the entire productive effort. We cannot afford to fail in any of them."

Fundamentally, the Paper said "increased output per man, year is the only way to expand production. The way to effect this is by organized combined effort of man, management and machines," and promised the installation of incentive payments for producers.

The White Paper listed three important problems to get Britain back on its economic feet.

Three Problems

- (1) The problem of coal and power: (2) To expand the nation's labour force to increase the output per man and to get workers to where they are needed most; (3) The problem of payment for imports, which involved recovery of exports.

"This is a critical moment in our affairs," the Paper said. "There is no place for industrial arrangements which restrict production, prices, or employment."

"We cannot afford to set a lower coal production target for 1947 than 200,000,000 tons but that would be barely enough for current use and stock."

Even so, the Paper said, "it will be a hard target to reach."

It said underground miners would be exempt from conscription for five years, but an 18-year-old who goes into the pits to avoid the call-up would be expected to mine until he was 45.

Rough Menu

The Major had been shown a rough menu and left it to be settled between his son-in-law and the caterer.

The Ministry of Food quite understood how the Mayor had fallen into error, but were bound to take steps in these times, he added.

The defendants' counsel said that the case would not have been brought forward if it had not been for the fact that the Mayor had been shown the menu.

ON OTHER PAGES

Page Three: Colony's Healthiest Year Since 1841.

Page Four: Leading Article—India's Position.

Page Five: Britain's Economic Future.

Page Six: China's Economic Future.

SUEZ CANAL

Cairo, Feb. 20. Premier Nokrashy Pasha, in a statement issued as a result of the four expressed by the International Maritime Conference in London, said today he would not take any steps to interfere with navigation in the Suez Canal after British troops left Egypt.

The Conference expressed the belief that Egypt might nationalize the Canal.—United Press.

Coal Exports Stopped

London, Feb. 20. Britain will not export coal until 1948 because of the fuel crisis and the need to build up extensive coal reserves, Sir Guy Nott-Bower, official spokesman of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, said in an interview to-night.

Despite increased output, there is no indication that Britain will restore her coal exports this year, he said.

"We might be able to consider starting exporting coal again next year when we expect that Britain's basic needs will be satisfied," he added.

While the hardest hit of Britain's customers will be Eire, which last year imported over a quarter of the total coal exports, France, Denmark, Italy, Belgium and Sweden come next.—Reuter.

Where Ignorance Was Bliss

Hertford, Feb. 20. The Mayor of Chelmsford, Alderman Arthur Andrews, 68, funeral furnisher, and his son-in-law, John Jordan, 25, funeral director, were at the Hertford Assizes today each fined £25 for contravening food regulations at a Mayoral Banquet at Chelmsford last November.

The caterer was fined £50 for serving more than three dishes. All three were ordered to pay a total of £30 costs.

Surrender Your Gold

Nanking, Feb. 21. The Ministry of Finance, according to informed quarters, has drawn up regulations to permit silver and goldsmith shops to operate under strict surveillance.

They said the regulations included the sale of silver and gold ornaments at pegged prices.

It is believed all shops will be required to surrender stocks of gold bars and lumps gold to the Central Bank of China at the official price of CN\$48,000 an ounce.—Associated Press.

THE WEATHER

The intense anticyclone still covers China, Japan and the neighbouring seas. Pressure is also high E. of the Philippines.

Today's forecast: Breeze, light or moderate N. or N.W. winds veering and freshening to gale force with rain or drizzle, and squalls.

Temperature: 65 to 75 F.

Humidity: 60 to 70 per cent.

Sea: Moderate to heavy.

Clouds: Partly cloudy to overcast.

Restaurants Petition To Governor

The "China Mail" understands that a petition was presented yesterday by the Chinese Restaurant and Eating House Association to His Excellency the Governor for repeal of the Meals and Liquor Tax.

The Association, which represents all Chinese restaurants and eating houses in the Colony, is reported to have declared in its petition that the tax, though imposed on customers, has in fact affected the restaurants by driving away customers.

It claims that business has declined from 30 to 60 per cent as a result of the tax and believes that if the decline continues, many restaurants will be obliged to close.

The "China Mail" understands that the Association, while petitioning for repeal of the present tax, suggests its substitution by a tax on net profits to be imposed directly on restaurants and eating houses.

Jewish Terrorists At Work

Jerusalem, Feb. 20. Jewish extremists stepped up their offensive against British rule today by blowing up the important Iraq Petroleum Company's pipeline in northern Palestine in two places and setting off two more electric mines under military trucks.

Today's sabotage followed on the heels of last night's daring raid on a RAF station at Ein Shemon, half way between Haifa and Tel-Aviv.

The attack on the vital pipeline, which carries British oil from Persian fields to an outlet near Haifa, was regarded as the most serious of today's terrorist acts. Details were still lacking.

The authorities have disclosed more about the assault on the RAF station last night. They said the terrorists lobbed mortar shells into the camp for 20 minutes before they were driven off.

British troops, when they captured the terrorist site, found three home-made mortars, two of which were loaded, and 12 mortar shell cases.

The sabotage of British commercial interests and the mining of communications previously had not come into Irqun's scope in its underground battle. Hagane apparently was confining its activity at the present time to the encouragement of illegal immigration, financing, and organizing a flow of arms ships from unknown Mediterranean ports, protecting refugees when they sought safety and fighting against deportation of the Jewish population.—United Press.

Practically taking the role of a defence, Mr. Howard told the Court, "it seemed to us that these facts are a complete defence to any charge of manslaughter."

He said the young woman was injured on the ground that she was apprehensive for her own safety and the safety of the man who had been with her.

He said the man had been with her for some time before she was injured and that he had been with her for some time before she was injured.

Snow Falls In Canton

Canton, Feb. 21. Snow fell in the suburbs yesterday for the first time in 10 years.

The temperature fell to 32 degrees, causing 20 deaths.—United Press.

Snow Both Sides Of Atlantic

London, Feb. 21. European weather, critical factor in Britain's battle against fuel and power shortage, turned worse again today. Snow fell in most districts of England and Wales and most north-east Yorkshire roads which had just been cleared, were blocked again.

Continental countries with out-exception reported sub-normal temperatures and practically all regions were short of fuel while supplies in some areas were drained to danger point.

Despite the previous "go-ahead" from Government, it appeared that many British industries would be unable to get back into production for some time.

Berlin reported that have 170 died from cold since December 1 and the Belgian coast town of Neaport said it had 10 days of exposure in the last two days.

The lowest British temperature today was 14 degrees Fahrenheit.—Associated Press.

Eight Inches

New York, Feb. 21. Eight thousand emergency workers today dug New York out from under the winter's worst snowstorm which covered the city's 6,174 miles of streets with eight inches of snow.

Three hundred flights were cancelled on national and international airlines.

Snow endangered traffic, forcing the temporary closing of several major bridges linking New York with Long Island.

For the first time this winter, Broadway's lights shone on empty streets as strong north-east winds blowing snow-whirlwinds—discouraged pedestrians.—United Press.

KILLED FATHER WITH AN ASPIDISTRA

Hertford, Feb. 20. On the night of January 25, William White, 46, returned to his Watford home. He was drunk. He walked deliberately into the kitchen, selected a knife and mounted the stairway to the second floor.

His wife, two daughters and his little son huddled together in the bedroom. It was not the first time White had come home drunk and they knew from experience that he was likely to be violent.

White confronted his family with a knife, and, waving slightly, said, "I am now going to sharpen this knife. I am going to kill Mr. Ware next door and then I am coming back to cut the lot of you up."

He turned and started back down the stairs.

Elsie Dorothy White, 19, looked frantically about at the head of the stairway as an aspidistra.

She picked up the plant, pot and all, and threw it with all her might at her father on the head and killed him.

The story of White and the aspidistra was told by the prosecutor, Mr. Gerald Howard, today at the trial of Elsie White for manslaughter.

Complete Defence

Practically taking the role of a defence, Mr. Howard told the Court, "it seemed to us that these facts are a complete defence to any charge of manslaughter."

He said the young woman was injured on the ground that she was apprehensive for her own safety and the safety of the man who had been with her.

He said the man had been with her for some time before she was injured and that he had been with her for some time before she was injured.

LEGISLATIVE YUAN'S FLAT REFUSAL

Nanking, Feb. 20. The Legislative Yuan, which is an outspoken critic of the Government's economic policy, today flatly refused the request of the Supreme National Defence Council for legislation providing legal penalties for violators of the emergency economic measures.

The Legislative Yuan, with Dr. Sun Fo presiding unannouncedly resolved to send the request back to the Council with a "counter-proposal" that the whole economic scheme announced on Sunday be submitted to examination by the Yuan "since they have great bearing on the people's burdens and freedom."

This is the first time the subordinate Legislative Yuan has taken such a determined position although meetings were frequently punctuated by bitter criticisms of Premier T. V. Soong.

The Legislative Yuan made an unexpected criticism of the Government banning of gold transactions and the circulation of United States dollars. It pointed out that prohibition of gold transactions, implying that individuals are compelled to sell their gold holdings at the Government's official price, would hurt the common people more than bureaucratic capital. It said many poor people, seeing the national currency devaluing, converted all their savings into gold and are now compelled to sell their holdings to the Government at the low official rate.

It also pointed out that the ban on the circulation of United States dollars is impractical since it is impossible to stamp out the black market due to private needs of foreign exchange in addition to diplomatic complications.

Soong Accused

One Legislative Yuan member questioned the propriety of calling the measures "emergency" since the war has long ended. Another member pointed out that the Government ordered all foreign exchange deposits in the banks, through-out China be surrendered to the Government last year when the rate was set at CN\$3,350 and asked why foreign exchange deposits in foreign countries were not included in that order.

One member charged that T. V. Soong was solely responsible for China's present economic chaos due to the failure of his gold policy.

At the same time, another member said it is foolish now to try to put the blame on

Gold Stuck In Hong Kong

Shanghai, Feb. 21. An authoritative banking source, today estimated that at present 200,000 ounces of gold, valued at over US\$7,000,000, are being stored in Hong Kong vaults which owners are unable to move profitably following the recent Chinese collapse and ban of gold sales by the Chinese Government.

The source said gold imports from the United States and Mexico, which last month totalled over US\$10,000,000, have been virtually closed off since Hong Kong is no longer granting import licences. The bulk of imports has been finding its way into China.

The source said the present Hong Kong price was HK\$270 per tael, which was below cost. The source pointed out some dealers may take a loss if the Chinese ban continues at length.

The source also said the India price was higher than Hong Kong but neither India nor Hong Kong was at present granting licences.—United Press.

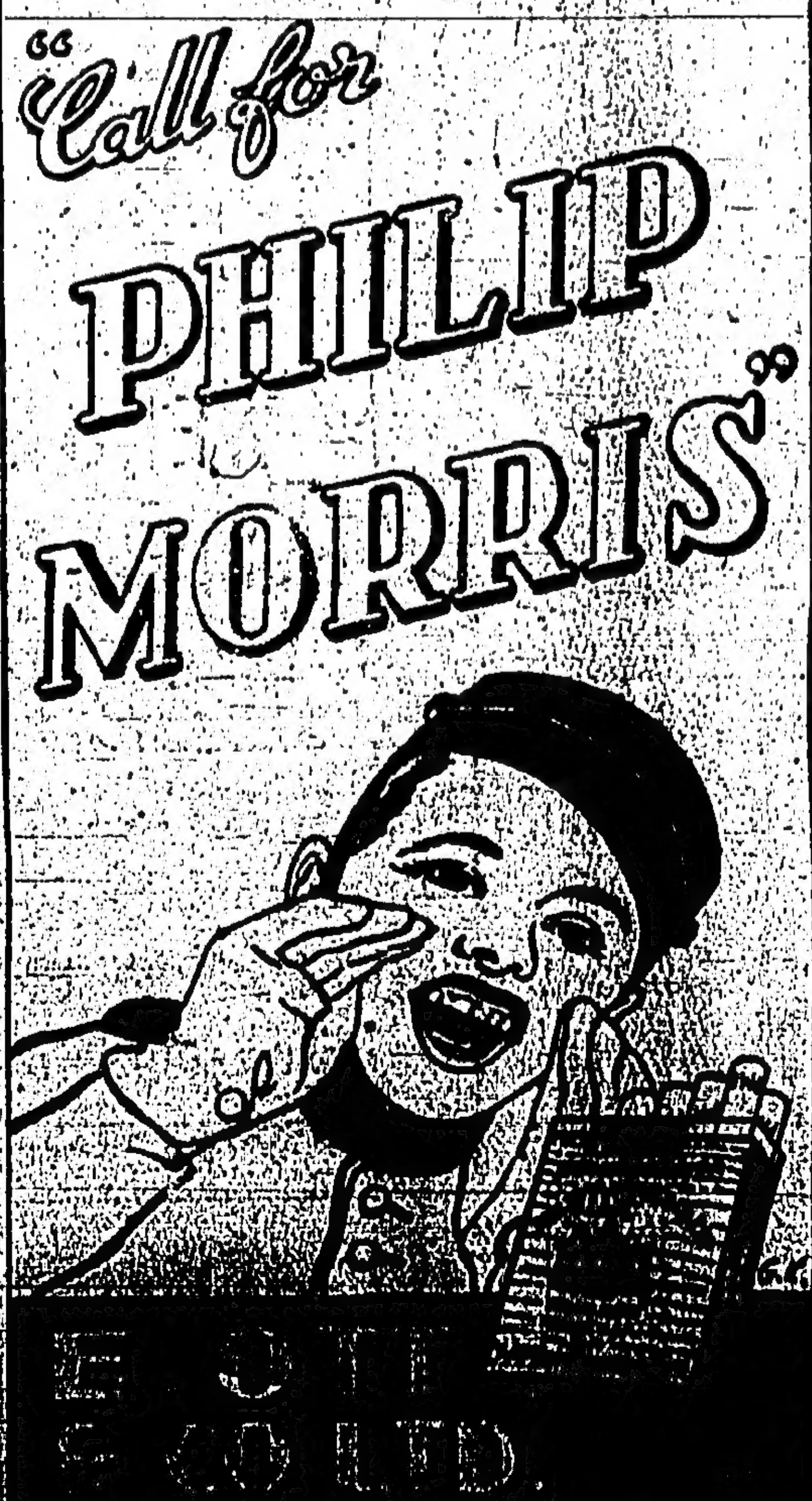
SUICIDE LEAP

Varaz, Italy, Feb. 20. Twenty-seven-year-old Adamo Betti made a suicide leap from a seventh-floor window here today.

His body crashed through the roof of a two-storey house below.

Betti was found suffering from scratches.—United Press.

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JANET NODE

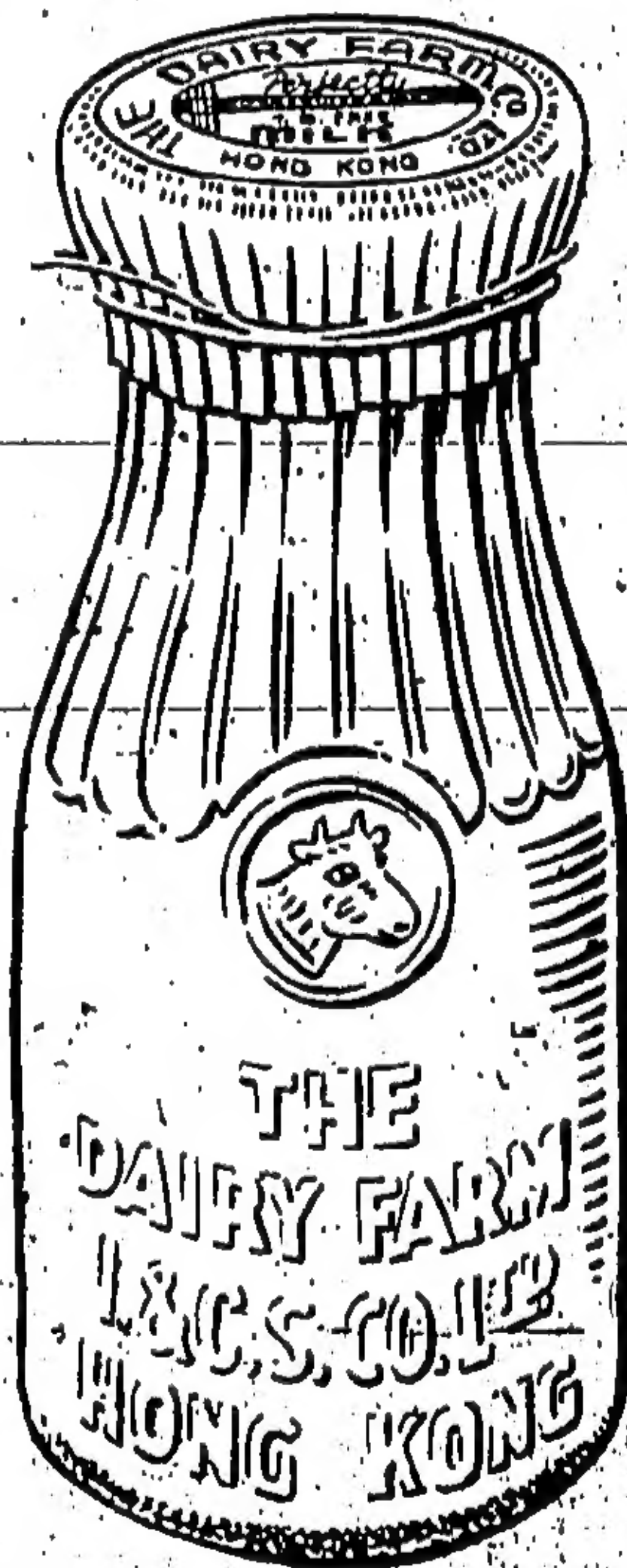
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PURE FOOD SPECIALISTS

Director Of Education's Advice To Pupils

Readers' Letters

Income Tax

Sir—To the average Hongkong resident, the crux of the Income Tax problem lies in the form in which it is applied. If the average resident does not at present have sufficient income to meet his daily expenses, where will he procure the funds to pay this tax? It is inevitable that this payment, if it is to be made, will mean that his standard of living, already at a low level, will be further reduced.

There is every indication that the average Hongkong resident, whether British, Chinese, Eurasian, Portuguese, or any other nationality, is at present in a position where he can hardly make ends meet. The imposition of direct income tax, therefore, will most certainly inflict further hardship, even misery, on this section of the community which forms the backbone of our local citizenry. When it is considered that the present high cost of living may rise, with corresponding greater hardship to this important section of the Community, the effect of direct income tax may well be disastrous.

The obvious remedy lies in indirect taxation. It is up to the Government to find ways and means of raising whatever revenue is required. Nothing can be better calculated to cause hardship, discontent and dissatisfaction than the imposition of direct taxation on the income of this section of the community, considering the fact that such income has been reduced to a level of bare subsistence.

This letter is written in the fervent hope that the Authorities concerned will take a realistic view of the situation and consider the plight of this unfortunate section of our respectable community.

THE MASSES.

Homeless

Sir—Hong Kong's homeless couples, with or without child attached, are probably among the

(Continued at foot of next Col.)

The Bellilos Girls' School held its first post-war Prize Distribution yesterday when, after the Principal, Miss E. G. Stephens had read the report, prizes were presented to the successful students by Mrs. F. R. Rowell, wife of the Director of Education.

In her report, Miss Stephens said that the school premises in Hollywood Road were destroyed during the Japanese occupation, so that the school had to re-open after the re-occupation in temporary premises at the Northcote Training College until February 1946, when it moved to the Ellis Kadoorie School.

Miss Stephens paid a tribute to the staff who had served the school so loyally in the past and extended a warm welcome to new members. Starting with 300 pupils, the school had now over 600 on the roll, with many more applicants turned away due to lack of space.

After the distribution of prizes, Mr. Rowell, in an address to the pupils, said in part:—

"Miss Stephens has mentioned the security of careers for girls when they left school and expressed the hope that some of you would 'take up social and welfare work'. I can assure you that there is a growing need for work in that direction in Hongkong, and it is people like yourselves with good education who can do so much for those less fortunate than yourselves. There is also another career which as Director of Education I must not forget to stress and that is the teaching profession. In 1941, Mr. Scillis (then Director of Education) had in mind the building of 50 Government Vernacular schools over a period of 10 years. I am myself busily pursuing the same objective and I only hope I can get it in five years instead of in 10. Now, that will mean the need for a very gradually increased number of teachers and for women teachers. The Director of Medical Services spoke to me the other day and said that he was finding difficulty in getting probationary nurses. There is another career which is specially suitable to women, and nursing is in great need of recruits."

"A good community should provide for every child a firm

most long-suffering people in the local community, with hopes diminished by countless disappointments."

Let for them is one countless series of 'unanswered advertisements' in which they find the only houses for which they are not required are located somewhere beyond the range of hills that hang over Kowloon, or of premises never far from the 'know' which never bear fruit of hearing of a likely place 'just too late' and of one depression after another as they watch the swelling list of new arrivals and realise that the position is not improving, but growing worse.

Unlike the Mother Country, Hong Kong has no legal means of enforcing fair charges for those who, forced by circumstances beyond their control, have to live in hotels and boarding-houses. An unspoken, or at least unwritten, agreement seems to keep the prices in the Big Four Hotels just within reasonable limits. The same does not apply to the smaller hotels and boarding houses which are now beginning to blow some up. A typical example is provided by a new one which has just opened. For a double room, barely half the size of the single room in, say, the Gloucester, the sum of \$25 per diem is demanded, without food. For a single room, rather reminiscent of the proverbial type where one has to open the window in order to change one's mind, a modest \$18 is requested.

The nearest bathroom is some 30 feet away, the lavatory about half that distance. There are no facilities for washing in one's room; and the resultant chaos and confusion around 8 a.m. can well be imagined. Food is extra, and only daily basis.

So acute is the need, however, that it is likely it will soon be full and have quite a respectable waiting list.

Perhaps in their write-up of Hong Kong, the visiting horde of American news correspondents might spare a line or two, and shed a tear for the Homeless. Hotel Hunters of Hong Kong.

R.P.

Property Damage

Sir—As most people in Hong Kong are aware there was no 'War Risk' scheme in force in the Colony on the outbreak of the War, the Chinese having turned down the scheme suggested by the British Government. Many owners of property damaged during the War are still under the illusion that Government will eventually compensate them for their losses. No suggestion has ever been made as to how this money will be forthcoming, although the highest compensation paid to the highest insured and insured British property was an equal sum. It is difficult to explain to all sane people why this is impossible.

There are some people who think that one 'Japanese' owner of property damaged during the War is entitled to a larger sum than another 'Chinese' owner of property damaged during the War. This is also impossible.

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BANK CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

The Bank of Canton Ltd., one of the Colony's major Chinese exchange banks, with branches and agencies throughout China, celebrated its 35th anniversary yesterday with a large cocktail party.

The Bank was first started 35 years ago by Chinese merchants in Hong Kong who saw the need of a bank entirely capitalised by Chinese. Through the years it has weathered all vicissitudes, and today it ranks as one of the Colony's leading banking institutions.

Safety of Passengers

The danger of vessels carrying excess passengers was again stressed by Commander Ryder in the Marine Court yesterday when he fined Ho Yick, master of a trading junk from Swabue, \$300 or one month for having on board 32 passengers in excess of the number permitted.

"The practice must stop," said Commander Ryder. "The safety of passengers must be safeguarded." He said Chief Clerk Inspector F. Bretz prosecuting, was appearing for the third or fourth time on the same charge. He had already had fair warning.

He said that as his passenger licence issued by the Chinese authorities, authorised him to carry 80 passengers he was forced by Chinese officials and others in Chinese waters to carry above the number permitted by his junk licence. There were also cargo owners who had to be allowed on board to accompany their cargo.

MONEY MART

A weak tone prevailed in the money market yesterday as every medium of speculation was on the decline. Chinese National Currency opened at 24 1/2 cents for futures and 24 1/4 cents for spot for CNY1,000. The former declined to 24 cents, but the latter, owing to some demand by spot buyers, rose to 24 1/2 cents.

Gold suffered a further decline and closed at \$154.50 a troy ounce. The day ranged from \$156 and \$174.50. Futures fell from \$11.00 to \$11.00 per 100 with sellers predominating. U.S. dollars weakened to \$4.81 buyers. Sterling and Australian pounds were unchanged at \$16.00 and \$12.25 respectively.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Peninsula Hotel arrivals—Duncan Roberts, M.A. Japan, A.C. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Chai Tien-hung, Mrs. M. Jeffries, J. Zylstra, Mrs. G. Roach, Mrs. J. MacKenzie, Mrs. D.A. Lewis, C. Kelly, Gen. W. Hatcher and Mrs. M. Sherman.

Peninsula arrivals—Miss C. Martin, Miss V.H. Hollowell, Miss E. Winkler, Miss M.V. Meville, Miss A.M. Chao, Miss M. O'Brien, S. Senebster, Col. G.A. Chester, D.S. O'Day, A.V. Gurle, Rev. Mr. W.O. Smith and Mrs. H. van Meter.

Witness Bursts Into Tears In Box

Evidence of how a Japanese gendarme, Kawamoto, had demonstrated to him how an Asiatian dog had been trained to attack on instigation was given before No. 5 War Crimes Court yesterday by William Albert Shea, who said that Kawamoto, in order to frighten him, had set the dog to attacking woodwork in a room that appeared to him to be a torture chamber.

Evidence of a similar nature was given by Dr. H. Y. Tseng, who said that at his first interrogation at the Eastern Kempeitai Headquarters a dog had been set on him, but did not bite. Dr. Tseng said that he was given the water torture by Kawamoto three times, was beaten on numerous occasions and was finally told that he would be starved to death if he did not confess the whereabouts of a transmitter. He was also threatened with execution and was actually kept without food for some days.

Beatrice Chan, who burst into tears while giving evidence, said that she had been threatened with having her hair burnt and attempted to take her own life by beating her head against a broken wall. She had lost consciousness in the attempt. She was given the water torture and was kicked and beaten to the extent that she suffered an injury to her kidney.

Murphy's Death
Dr. V. N. Vargassoff gave evidence of having examined Alfred Edward Murphy's body when he was brought back from the Eastern Kempeitai Headquarters. He only saw Murphy dead, Dr. Vargassoff said. He was much emaciated and his face looked thinner. The swelling was probably caused by malnutrition.

Murphy had been a patient at St. Paul's French Hospital, suffering from colitis, Dr. Vargassoff said. A few months before he was arrested by the Japanese he had been discharged and was sufficiently recovered to revert to an ordinary, though it would have to be a selected, diet.

Replying to a question from defence counsel Dr. Vargassoff said that while he could make a patient waterbury, it was a select diet, he was not satisfied to be given a select diet. He said that the diet of treatment for the Japanese was a select diet, but he was not satisfied to be given a select diet.

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Pleads Guilty To Bribe Offer

Pleading guilty to a charge of offering a bribe of \$50 to CSI Chan Kim Wan of the Traffic Department, Li Sang, a foreman in the employ of the Kin Hing Construction Company, was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment with hard labour by Mr. E. H. Sainsbury at Central Magistracy yesterday.

Accused was represented by Mr. D. L. Strellett. Inspector Sykes, who prosecuted, said that at 10.30 a.m. on Feb. 10, CSI Chan was instructed by ASP Binns to make enquiries into the closing of Chanter Road between Wardley Street and Lee House Street. CSI Chan saw defendant at the place designated and was informed that the person responsible for the closing of the road was CSI Chan. CSI Chan then invited Li Sang, the Company's foreman, to the Company's office and offered him a packet of Senior Service cigarettes containing \$50, which was refused.

A report of the incident was made by CSI Chan and that evening, CSI Chan went to the office of CSI Chan who, on approaching Li Sang, was again offered a packet of Senior Service cigarettes containing \$50, upon which he was urged to accept them.

Mr. Strellett said that Li Sang was charged as a foreman and that it was his job to tear down the exterior plaster on Queen's Building. When it was found that plaster was falling across the road, Li Sang thought that in the interests of safety, it was desirable that the area be roped off. When the Police came to know who was responsible, Li made several attempts to locate his employer, but was unsuccessful. It was further submitted by Mr. Strellett that the reason why Li offered the money was not because he thought he was doing something wrong, but because he wanted to get rid of the Inspector, whose presence prevented him from getting on with his job.

Mr. Strellett said that Li was not a person who is easily convinced. In roving off the area, he was only thinking of the safety of the public. In conclusion, Mr. Strellett asked His Worship to take into consideration the fact that the presence of the police had worried defendant and held him up in his work with the result that he offered the money in order to induce the Inspector to stay away. Mr. Strellett requested His Worship to treat the case as leniently as possible, as it was Li's first offence and he had a wife and four children entirely dependent on him.

Before passing sentence, Mr. Sainsbury said to accused: "I have listened carefully to your counsel. He has presented certain aspects which are in your favour. You must know and the public must know that temptations must not be tendered by you to public officers. I am taking into consideration your circumstances and the fact that this is your first offence."

Convicted on the charge of unlawfully selling two K.C.R. tickets at 2.20 p.m. on Feb. 20, Chai Chau-hung was fined \$50 by Mr. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday. 3/1 Askew prosecuted.

ARMED ROBBER CONVICTED

Convicted of armed robbery, Tse Wah was sentenced to nine years' hard labour and nine strokes of the cane by Mr. Justice Williams, Pulane Judge, at the Criminal Sessions yesterday.

With five masked accomplices, not in custody, and armed with a pistol and choppers, Tse Wah boarded four fishing boats anchored in Pak Fung Bay off Ho I Ha Village near Tak Mun Island under bright moon light on Jan. 6, and robbed the fishing people of money, jewellery, clothing and food.

According to evidence, accused was the only one in the gang not masked. During the ransacking, four of the fisher folk were taken to the robber's boat as hostages but were released after the robbery.

The decree nisi granted on Nov. 19 last year by Mr. Justice T.J. Gould to Mr. Harold John Armstrong, solicitor, residing at No. 1, Mrs. Ronald, against his wife, was made absolute by Mr. Justice E.H. Williams, Pulane Judge, at the Supreme Court yesterday.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM, MAY 5th-16th, 1947

This is your first opportunity in seven years to see your old suppliers in Britain and to meet new ones. Overseas Buyers are invited to Britain for the 1947 British Industries Fair. It will enable them to establish personal contact with the makers of the immense range of United Kingdom goods displayed in the London (Lighter Industries) and Birmingham (Hardware & Engineering) Sections of the Fair. The careful grouping of exhibits will assist buyers to compare the products of competing firms with a minimum of time, trouble and expense. Special arrangements to suit individual markets can be discussed and terms and conditions of business settled direct with the manufacturer, since only the actual producer or the sole selling agent may exhibit.

For full details of the 1947 Fair apply to the nearest British Trade Commission or to the nearest British Consulate or to the nearest British Trade Commissioner in your area.

BRITISH PRODUCES THE GOOD

Death Due To Drowning

"Death due to drowning through cause unknown" was the unanimous verdict returned at a Coroner's Inquest at Central Magistracy yesterday afternoon into the death of an unknown Chinese female, aged about 30, whose body was found lying on the beach off King's Road, near North Point, on Dec. 12.

Mr. F. X. d'Amada sat as Coroner.

After detailing the result of a post-mortem examination carried out by Mr. Dr. D. W. Gould of the Victoria Mortuary and that, in his opinion, death was due to drowning and that the injuries described by him were caused before death and probably while the deceased was in the water. There was nothing to indicate how the deceased entered the water.

PCO Yuen Chai Wing testified that enquires had been carried out by him for three days to ascertain the identity of the deceased, without result. Inspector Mills corroborated the evidence of PCO Yuen.

Sentence of six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour was passed by Mr. E. H. Stansbury on Lo Tung, who pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to obtain \$250 by false pretences from Ng Yee Suen of the Wing Lung Hotel, 132 Queen's Road Central, on Feb. 20.

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

NOTICE TO MEMBERS SECOND EXTRA RACE MEETING Saturday, 22nd February 1947.

The first half will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the first race will be run at 2.00 p.m.

Through members (8 Races—\$16) may be obtained at the Office of the Treasurers, 1st Floor, Exchange Building, also tickets for the Special Cash Sweep (\$2.00) on the last race.

MEMBERS' BADGES AND ENCLOSURE.

Members are reminded that they and their ladies MUST wear their badges prominently displayed throughout the Meeting.

NO ONE WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE.

Badges admitting non-members to the Members' Enclosure and Club Rooms at \$10.00 including tax are obtainable through the Secretary upon the written or personal introduction of a member, such member to be responsible for all bills, etc.

Badges admitting to Members' Enclosure will NOT be on sale at the RACE COURSE.

The Treasurers' Comptroller Office will close at 11 a.m. and the Secretary's Office at 11.45 a.m. Both Offices at 1st floor, Exchange Building.

A limited number of tickets will be obtainable at the Club House, provided they are ordered in advance from the No. 1 Box (Tel. 27818).

NO CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE CLUB'S PREMISES DURING THE MEETING.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE

The price of admission to the Public Enclosure is \$5 including tax for all persons including ladies, and is payable at the Gate.

Bookmakers, Tie Men, etc., will not be permitted to operate within the precincts of The Hong Kong Jockey Club during the Race Meeting.

Refreshments will be obtainable in the Restaurant in the Public Enclosure.

SERVANTS' PASSES

Passes for Servants will be issued to Private Box holders ONLY on application to the Secretary, 1st Floor, Exchange Building.

Any persons found loitering with Servants' passes in their possession will forfeit the same and will be removed from the Enclosure.

By Order,
C. B. BROWN,
Secretary.

Colony's Healthiest Year Since 1841

From statistics collated by the Medical and Health Authorities, it is of interest to note that Hong Kong enjoyed a standard of health during the year just passed which has never been attained before in the century-old history of the Colony.

There are several ways in which the health state of a community can be assessed. Of these perhaps three of the more sensitive are the death-rate, the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate.

In 1946, the deaths of 16,553 were registered all of which were of Chinese race except for 157. The death-rate, or the number of deaths per thousand living persons for the period, is estimated at 2.4 per thousand. Now, in 1931, when the last census was taken, the death-rate was 2.4 per thousand, and in 1940 which was the last year before the Pacific War, the death-rate was just under 2.7 per thousand. In other words, the rate in 1946 was less than one quarter of that for 1940.

The infant mortality rate, is meant the number of deaths of babies during the first twelve months after birth occurring in every thousand babies born alive. In 1931, some 617 babies

died before they were a year old out of every thousand live births registered. In 1940, 327 babies died out of every thousand live births. In 1946, the figure was only 109. Thus, out of every thousand babies born in 1946 there was a saving of 218 babies more than in 1940.

The number of births, excluding those registered as having taken place between November 1941 and December 1946, amounted to 31,098 of whom all but 256 were of Chinese race.

Smallpox Outbreak

Another index of health standards relates to deaths of mothers from accidents connected with child-birth. Thirty-eight mothers died as the result of sickness in pregnancy or during or as the result of child-birth. This is equivalent to only just over one mother for every thousand babies born. This is a remarkably low figure, even for the most healthy community. The estimate is borne out by the fact that not one mother died in the Tuen Yee Government Maternity Hospital in 1946, although 2,750 mothers gave birth in that institution during the year.

In spite of the foregoing, it must be admitted that the Colony's health record was marred by the outbreak of smallpox, an illness which is so easily preventable by periodical vaccination and which was attended by death in two out of every three untreated cases in 1946.

A less serious epidemic of cholera, also, occurred and this may be regarded as a malady which can be prevented very largely by individuals undergoing periodical inoculation and taking precautions against eating and drinking anything that may contain cholera germs, and by the isolation of persons with cholera or who still carry the germs in their bowels after recovering from the illness.

T.B. Scourge

Minor outbreaks of other preventable sicknesses like diphtheria, relapsing fever, typhus fever and dysentery, also, have to be recorded against the year 1946.

Mention must be made of tuberculosis which is also very largely preventable by means of taking adequate food, good housing, personal and domestic hygiene, refraining from spitting, avoiding contact persons with active illness, and by the early discovery and treatment of such sufferers. Tuberculosis remains the most serious scourge met with in Hong Kong, attacking persons even in high places, but affecting principally those who are underfed, ill-housed and exposed to mass infection by the germs.

To end on a note of optimism.

SALVATION ARMY'S APPEAL

Previously acknowledged \$2,575. K. L. Quick I.O.I. \$25, Muller Ltd. \$20, A. W. Wood \$15, H. K. Mackay \$25, W. H. G. Clarke \$25, G. L. & S. \$15, Mr. Simpson \$25, Jones & Co. \$100, Mr. Nole \$10, Pankell & Sons \$10, Walter Nole \$10, Hongkong Commercial Co. \$10, J. Robinson \$100, Chellaram & Co. \$25, Robinson Co. \$10, D. H. & Co. \$10, H. H. & Co. \$10, A. Annett Ltd. \$25, De Schellens Ltd. \$25, P. D. Gault & Co. \$25, Chittimall & Co. \$25, Friends \$10, G. L. H. Morrison \$25, J. W. & Co. \$10, Hall Law & Sons \$10, T. & Co. \$25, Mr. Simpson \$25, David Wong \$10, Watson & Co. \$25, A. W. Brown \$25, Gilman & Co. \$25, Asia Co. \$25, H. H. & Co. \$100, Calverley Macgregor \$100, Mr. M. Macgregor \$50, T. Adie, Martin \$25, Loxley & Co. Ltd. \$25, John D. H. Robinson \$100, G. T. Pickett \$100, Hutton & Co. \$100, H. K. Brewery & Distillery Co. \$100, Johnson, Stokes & Masters \$250, Total \$2,575.

Let it be repeated that the first full year following the liberation of Hong Kong is likely to go down into history as one of the best ever experienced, in so far as concerns the general health of the community during one hundred years of the Colony's existence.

Let us hope that in 1947, enough food of a nutritious nature will be available to all, that housing conditions will be improved and that this city of ours will retain its proverbial loveliness, all members of the community of all races and ages working together to achieve this result.

Weekly Returns

The healthy returns for the week ending Feb. 15 show 11 cases of smallpox (eight local and three imported) and deaths. Tuberculosis cases totalled 90, with 39 fatal.

Births registered during the week numbered 679, and deaths 303.

Three men, Lo Mui, Lo Sheung and Chan So alleged to have taken part in an armed robbery at the residence of Wong Chi-san, a Chinese doctor, at No. 198, Wanchai Road on Jan. 30 were committed to the Sessions by Mr. H.G. Sheldon at Central yesterday.

While walking along Nathan Road, near Public Square Street, shortly before 1 p.m. yesterday, Mrs. G. W. F. Edwards had her brown leather handbag snatched by a Chinese. She lost \$80 in cash, a H.K.S.B. chequebook, a powder compact, pen and pencil, the total loss being in the neighbourhood of \$500.

YOUR FILMS ARE PRECIOUS!

a reliable Developing and Printing Service is of Paramount Importance.

As always—you can rely on—

VICTORY STUDIO

192, NATHAN ROAD, (Corner of Austin Rd., Kowloon)

HONG KONG BRANCH: Alexandra Building, (Opp. Cafe Wilsenian)

THOSE GIFTS HOME

As a result of certain misunderstandings on the sending or taking of rationed goods—particularly clothing—into the United Kingdom, the following statement is issued for general information.

Clothing, footwear, towels, hand-knitting yarn and textile piece goods are rationed in the United Kingdom and the legal position is that imports of this nature are subject to the surrender of clothing coupons before they can be taken possession of in this country. Whilst full discretion is retained by the Board of Trade the obligation to surrender coupons is not, however, normally enforced in the case of rationed goods which are:

(a) contained in a gift parcel which complies with the conditions of licence-free admission, or

(b) brought in for personal use or as gifts, if of a reasonable quantity or

(c) sent on in advance of arrival and intended for personal use, if of a reasonable quantity.

The underlying intention is to prevent persons in the United Kingdom fortunate enough to have friends abroad, from receiving unlimited quantities of rationed goods which may have actually been made in the United Kingdom and exported to Colonial Territories.

It is of course, wasteful in time, effort, shipping space and productive power that articles such as clothing should be exported, only to be re-exported to the United Kingdom.

There does not appear to be any intention of interfering with the sending of normal gifts, or of unreasonably limiting a traveller's personal baggage.

Chinese Optical Co.

OPTICIAN

67 QUEEN'S ROAD C

HONGKONG TRAMWAYS LIMITED

NOTICE

On and from Saturday, 1st March, 1947, the tramway service West of Western Market will be resumed to WHITTY STREET as under:

From	To	First Car	Last Car
Causeway Bay	Whitty Street	6.01 a.m.	11.28 p.m.
Happy Valley	Whitty Street	6.00 a.m.	11.28 p.m.
Whitty Street	Causeway Bay	6.31 a.m.	11.59 p.m.
Whitty Street	Happy Valley	6.30 a.m.	11.58 p.m.

Also from the same date the special 12-minute service in the Godown-Control area will be resumed between KENNEDY TOWN MARKET and WHITTY STREET with stopping places at Sand Street and Queen's Road West ONLY:

From	To	First Car	Last Car
Whitty Street	Kennedy Town	6.48 a.m.	9.48 p.m.
Kennedy Town	Whitty Street	6.54 a.m.	9.55 p.m.

PASSENGERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO JOIN OR LEAVE THE CARS WITHIN THE ROAD BARRIERS ON THIS ROUTE.

FARES

1st class 20 cents
3rd class 10 cents
Tickets are not transferable.
Available on the car or issue only.

MARKET PRODUCE WILL NOT BE CARRIED.

Public attention is called to an amendment of Rules for regulating travelling in the trams of the Company by powers under Section 39 of The Tramway Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 published by the Hongkong Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 8 of 11th February, 1947, as follows:

Rule 31. Any person offending against or committing a breach of any of those rules shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.

By notification in the same Gazette. The Governor-in-Council has ordered that the foregoing amendment shall come into operation effective as from the 12th day of February, 1947.

W. F. SIMMONS
Deputy General Manager,
Acting General Manager.

Hongkong, 19th February, 1947.

NOTICE

THE HONGKONG & YAUMATI FERRY CO., LTD.

All persons, firms or corporations having claims against the above-named Company with respect to transactions prior to 8th December, 1941, are kindly requested to submit such claims, with supporting details where possible, to the registered office of the Company, 144-148 Des Voeux Road, Central, 1st Floor, Hongkong, on or before 28th February, 1947.

Claims are required for registration purposes only.

Acceptance of any claims lodged is not to be construed as an admission of liability.

Hongkong, 21st Feb. 1947.

EX-GUNNERS' ROLL OF HONG KONG

All who have at any time served but are no longer serving in the Royal Regiment of Artillery are invited to meet at:

The Volunteer Headquarters
Garden Road

on Tuesday February 25th at 5.45 p.m.

to discuss the question of the formation of an Ex-Gunners' Roll of Hong Kong.

Beten's Beauty Salons

You can trust your personal Beauty Problems—your Permanent Waves, Shampoo, Sets, Dyeing, Facials, Manicure, Pedicure to Beten's expert operators (1st floor) above Lane Crawford's. Tel. 33161.

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Auctioneers, Surveyors and Appraisers.
Pedder Building.
Telephone No. 20224.

Service Auction Rooms

Auctioneers, Surveyors, etc.
Basement, French Bank Bldg., A.E.B. House, Auctioneers.
Telephone 31857.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned has received instructions from the Custodian of Property to sell by Public Auction

on TUESDAY, THE 21st FEBRUARY, 1947, Commencing at 10 a.m.

AT THE SERVICE AUCTION ROOMS, FRENCH BANK BUILDING, BASEMENT

200 LOTS OF MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, comprising:—

STORED AT CUSTODIAN 'K' GODOWN, MA TAU WEI ROAD, KOWLOON.

Chinets, Sideboards, Wardrobes, Chests of Drawers, Cupboards, Decks, Record Cabinet, Colorator, Refrigerators, Dining Tables, Occasional Tables, Bedside Tables, Dressing Tables, Kitchen Tables, Card Tables, Tea Poya, Settees, Armchairs, Chesterfields, Vienna Chairs, Straight-backed Chairs, Benches, Stools, Lockers, Beds, Bed Ends, Bed Frames, Box Springs, Stands, Tuvel Racks, Radios, Water Heater, Platform Scales, Air Compressor, Leather Pouches, Steel Helmets, Etc., Etc.

STORED AT THE RADIO WORKSHOP, GLOUCESTER BUILDING, 2nd FLOOR, Shaping Machine.

STORED AT No. 1 HUT, GARDEN ROAD GARAGE, GARDEN ROAD.
Pistons, Piston Rings, Connection Rods, Gaskets, Fan Belts, Etc.

STORED AT No. 2 HUT, GARDEN ROAD GARAGE, GARDEN ROAD.
Front and Rear Axle Springs, Carburetors, Dynamo, Armature Rods, Etc.

STORED AT No. 3 HUT, GARDEN ROAD GARAGE, GARDEN ROAD, ROOM No. 1.
Motor Car Tyres.

STORED AT No. 3 HUT, ROOM No. 2, GARDEN ROAD GARAGE, GARDEN ROAD.
Dismantled Engine, Crankcase, Cylinder Block, Etc.

STORED AT No. 3 HUT, ROOM No. 3, GARDEN ROAD GARAGE, GARDEN ROAD.
Copper Tubing, Crankshaft and Gear, Flywheel, Etc.; "Studebaker" Champion, "Vauxhall-10", "Ford" and "Standard" 9" Engine Blocks.

STORE AT No. 3 HUT, ROOM No. 4, GARDEN ROAD GARAGE, GARDEN ROAD.
Head lamp Reflector, Crankcase, Oil Pan, Dynamo, Starter Motor, Etc.

STORED AT FU WAH TEA GODOWN, WEST POINT.
Jute Twine.

STORED AT SUI BUN FOR GODOWN, WEST POINT.
Mirrors, Trunks, Safe; "Hillman Mjnx" Car; Silk Pennants; Felt Hats; Morning Gowns; Etc.

STORED AT CUSTODIAN No. 'K' GODOWN, MA TAU WEI ROAD, KOWLOON.
Gunny Bags; Jute Twine; Electric Generator.

STORED AT HONGKONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN CO., LTD'S Nos. 80/81 GODOWN, TSMISHATSUI.

Jute Twine; Camphorwood trunks; Tin Trunks; Cabin and Wardrobe Trunks; Silk Yarn; Matting; Etc.

STORED AT KIN LEE GODOWN, WEST POINT.
Cylindrical Tank; Donkey feed Pump; Furnace Plates; Channels, Angles and Frame Parts; Fire Bricks; Boiler Tubes; Cast Iron Frame Parts; Brass High Pressure Valves; Asbestos Rope Packing; Etc.

The above-mentioned articles will be open for inspection at their respective godowns on 22nd February, 1947, between 10 a.m. and noon, and on the 24th February, 1947, between 10 a.m. and noon, and between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Inspection facilities will be issued by the Custodian of Property to the public on the 24th February, 1947, at the Custodian's Office, 144-148 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Conditions of Sale:—The goods are sold as they are, without warranty, and the buyer is to inspect the goods before purchase. The goods are to be removed from the godown within 10 days of the date of sale, and the buyer is to be responsible for the removal of the goods. The goods are to be sold in lots, and the buyer is to be responsible for the removal of the goods in lots.

LOCATED AT 15-A MOBILE WORKSHOP, TEME ARSENAL ROAD, KOWLOON.

Scrap Ferrous Metal.

Permits to view, Catalogues, Special Conditions of Sale, etc., may be obtained from Messrs. Lammet Brothers, 15-A Mobile Workshop, Teme Arsenal Road, Kowloon.

LOCATED AT 387 COY.—R.A.S.C. WORKSHOPS, KOWLOON.

Engineer's Portable Borer.

LOCATED AT E.S.B.D. CHATHAM ROAD, KOWLOON.

Scrap Ferrous Metal.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

20 WORDS \$2 FOR ONE INSERTION—PREPAID \$1 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL INSERTION. ADDITIONAL WORDS 10 CTS. PER WORD PER INSERTION.

\$2

WANTED KNOWN

ENGLISH Lady visits hotels, houses, for shampoo/set/manicure/ etc. Write 4 Chatham Rd. Kowloon, Phone 68620.

POSITION WANTED

B.A. registered teacher, experienced in business, good in English, Maths, typing, book-keeping, office routine, seeks employment. Box 207, "China Mail".

POSITION VACANT

ACCOMMODATION required for British Aircraft Engineers. Quiet habits. Plans, rooms, with or without board desired. Apply Box No. 209 "China Mail".

PREMISES WANTED

ENGLISH couple, baby girl, nearing end of mental tutelage after nine months in small hotel room, urgently beg some kind soul to spare them two or three rooms, furnished or not, preferably Hongkong side as husband occasionally works till well after midnight. Can provide own linen, cutlery, crockery, cooking utensils, some furniture. Box 268, "China Mail".

TWO or three room flats required. Furnished or unfurnished. Apply Box No. 270 "China Mail".

FOR SALE

FOR SALE, "Wellwood" Utility 41-pc. Combination Dinner/Tea Sets at \$125 per set and 21-pc. Tea Sets at \$85 per set. Limited quantities available at Scott & English Ltd., 301 Union Building.

AUCTION SALE

BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF DISPOSALS FAR EASTERN AREA (M. O. S.) Messrs. Lammet Brothers of Pedder Building, Hong Kong, have received instructions to sell by Auction at their Sales Rooms, Pedder Building—Basement, at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, the 22nd day of February 1947:—

A LARGE QUANTITY OF MISCELLANEOUS STORES AND LORRIES comprising:—

LOCATED AT H. M. NAVAL YARD, KOWLOON.

Worthington & Simpson Portable Fire and Bilge Pumps with Gear, Empty Drums and Metal Pails.

LOCATED AT ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS VEHICLE DEPOT, SHAM SHUPO.

"International" and "Bedford" 2-ton Lorries.

LOCATED AT H. M. NAVAL DOCKYARD, HONG KONG.

Electric Cable, Lanterns, Race Life Lights, Camp Beds, Tables, Telephones, Searchlight Projectors, Old Batteries, Films, Paper Bromide, Plates, Scrap Cork and Cordage.

LOCATED AT 293 EQUIPMENT PARK, RAF, KOWLOON.

Developer M. Q. Infra Red, Pan-film, Assorted Camouflage Nets and Scrap Ferrous Metal.

LOCATED AT 387 COY.—R.A.S.C. WORKSHOPS, KOWLOON.

Engineer's Portable Borer.

LOCATED AT E.S.B.D. CHATHAM ROAD, KOWLOON.

Scrap Ferrous Metal.

Permits to view, Catalogues, Special Conditions of Sale, etc., may be obtained from Messrs. Lammet Brothers, 15-A Mobile Workshop, Teme Arsenal Road, Kowloon.

LOCATED AT 15-A MOBILE WORKSHOP, TEME ARSENAL ROAD, KOWLOON.

Scrap Ferrous Metal.

Permits to view, Catalogues, Special Conditions of Sale, etc., may be obtained from Messrs. Lammet Brothers, 15-A Mobile Workshop, Teme Arsenal Road, Kowloon.

LOCATED AT 387 COY.—R.A.S.C. WORKSHOPS, KOWLOON.

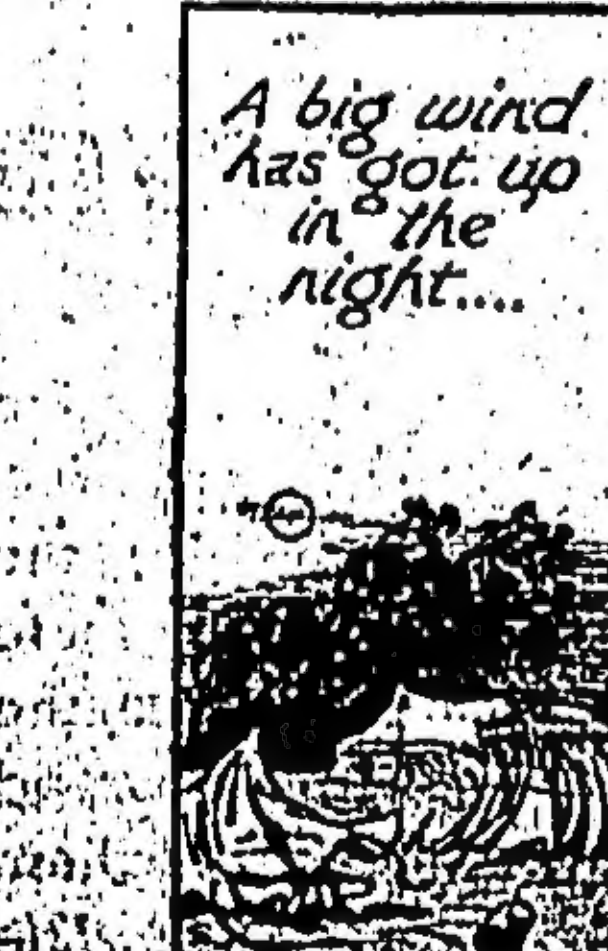
Engineer's Portable Borer.

LOCATED AT E.S.B.D. CHATHAM ROAD, KOWLOON.

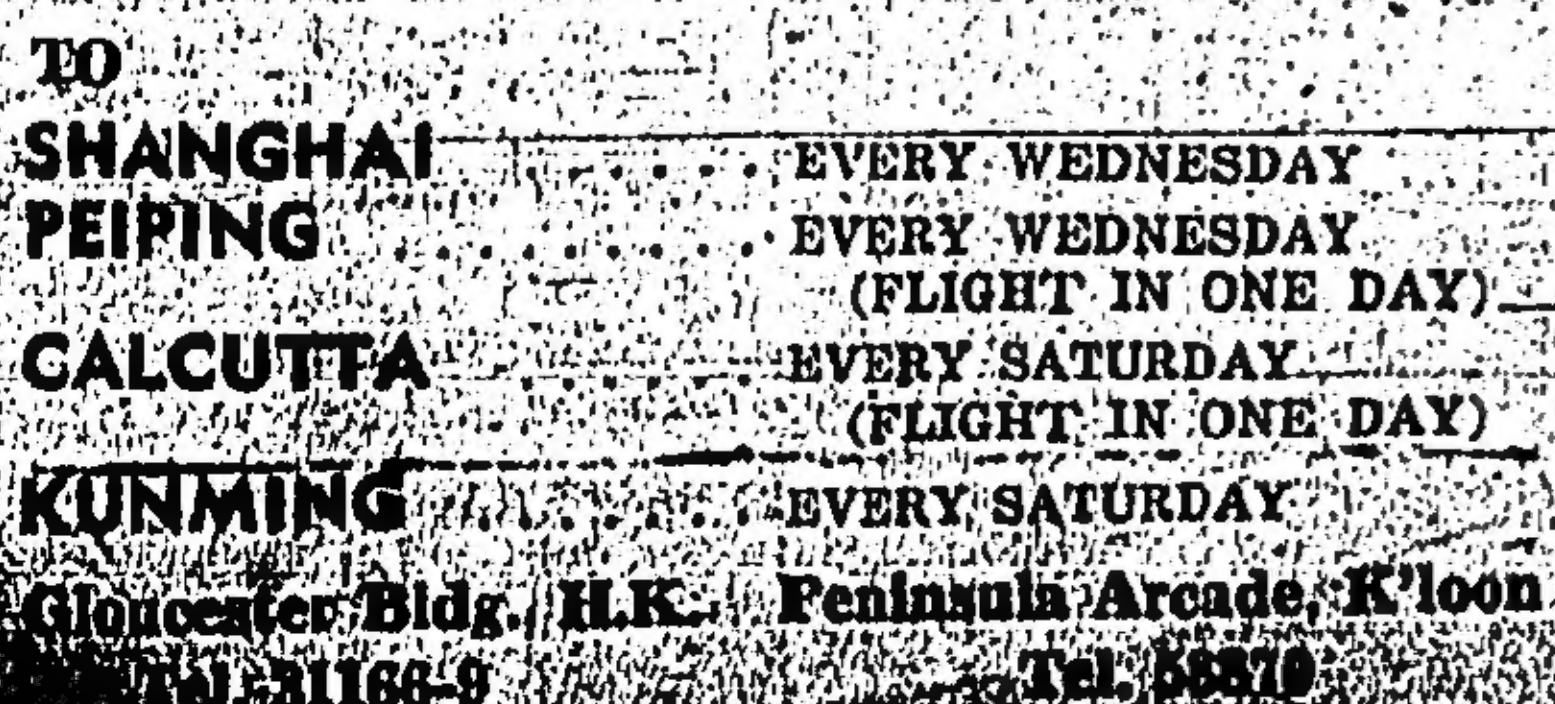
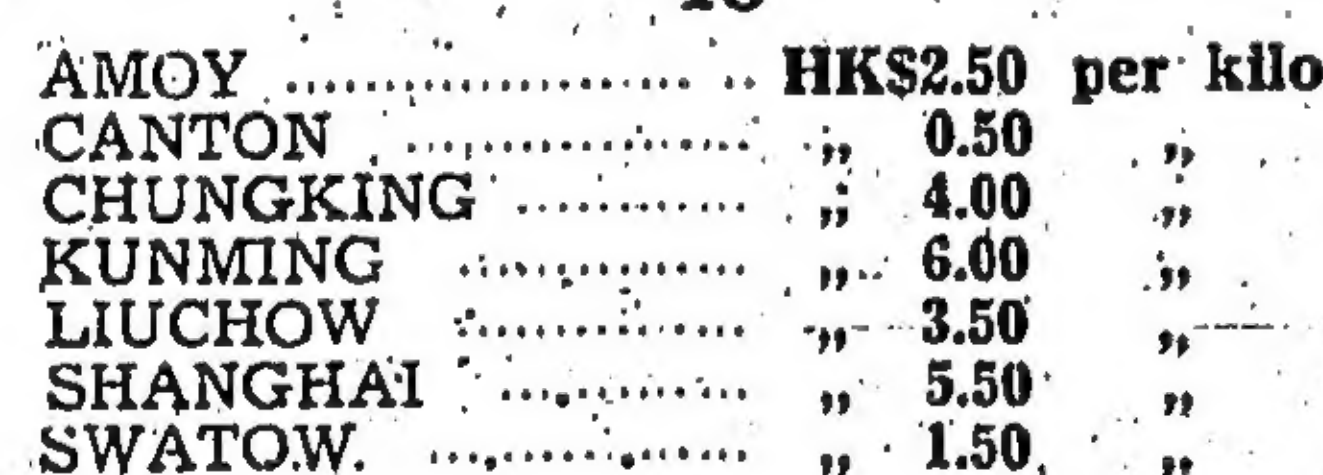
Scrap Ferrous Metal.

Permits to view, Catalogues, Special Conditions of Sale, etc., may be obtained from Messrs. Lammet Brothers, 15-A Mobile Workshop, Teme Arsenal Road, Kowloon.

"JANE"



ROOTS AND HER BU

~~Peninsula Hotel - Puerto Te. - 55440~~

One of the partners in the present syndicate, Harry Baron, 70-year-old prospector, soon after the present discovery collapsed from heart trouble, but is recovering. The reported Timors find is the latest of several gold strikes in Australia in recent months, the most important being made last November in the Mountain View mine, Western Australia.

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At all tables of a duplicate where the heart grand slam was reached, West led his diamond 7. Some of the declarers then proceeded to make the contract, but two of them not so. Those who took it on the job, discarded the spade from the first trick, took nine tricks in diamonds and lost.

SAK 1098T
HK 4
DJ 32
C76

(Dealer East Both sides vulnerable)

Table

1. South starts with 1 Spade North Side 2 Clubs South 2 Spades and North 2 Hearts who would you bid?

2. South starts with 1 Spade North Side 2 Clubs South 2 Spades and North 2 Hearts who would you bid?

3. South starts with 1 Spade North Side 2 Clubs South 2 Spades and North 2 Hearts who would you bid?

SAK 1098T
HK 4
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3. South starts with 1 Spade North Side 2 Clubs South 2 Spades and North 2 Hearts who would you bid?

If present plans materialise, Farnlip Airport, near Ilford, will become one of London's major airports, for Ilford Borough Council, who wanted the land for housing, have been told that it is the only suitable site for addition to London Airport, which will be essential soon. I understand that one of the proposed uses for Farnlip is the possibility of being the number one aircraft tax-

The Sheriff said that a concentrated search was being made for the "Trigger man" in the case.

The man lynched had been arrested as a suspect after the driver had been fatally stabbed. A crowd of 100 men subsequently attacked the man and killed the negro. The

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the opening of new showrooms

for their

Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning
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Enquiries and Inspection Invited.

KRAFT FOODS

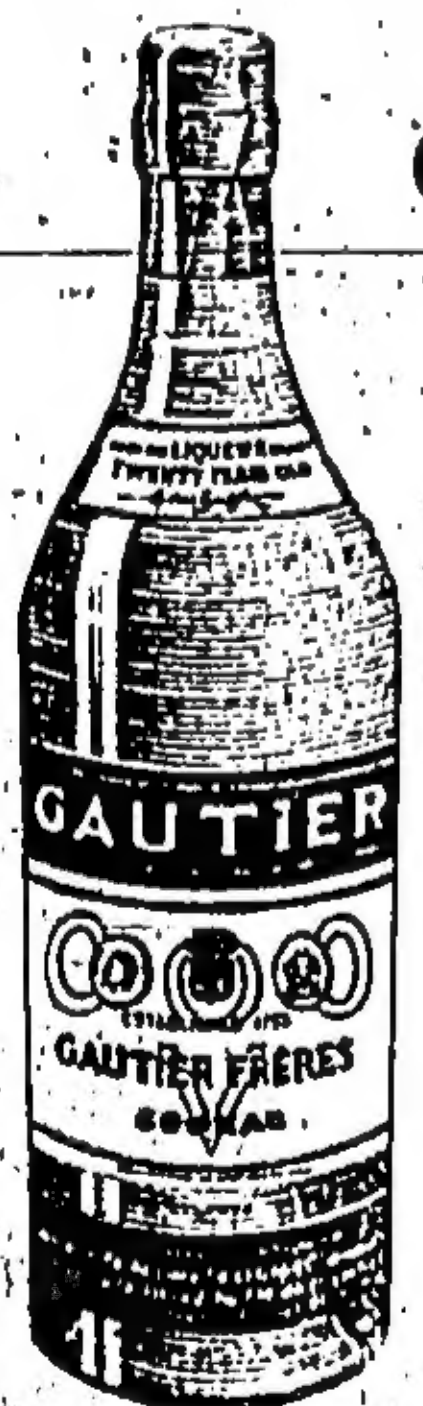
KRAFT "RED FEATHER" Cheese &
Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce.

A fully matured KRAFT
CHEESE expertly prepared to
produce an appetizing CHEESE
and SPAGHETTI with tomato
sauce unequalled by any product
of a similar type.



12 oz. tin \$0.90 per tin
KRAFT "RED FEATHER" Rabbit in Aspic.
A delectable canned product of specially selected high grade
AUSTRALIAN RABBITS perfectly cooked and set in ASPIC.
Ready to serve—Hot or Cold.

RABBIT in ASPIC: 12 oz. tins \$1.05 per tin.
Obtainable at ALL DAIRY FARM BRANCHES and from
leading Grocers & Provision Stores throughout the Colony.
The Dairy Farm, Ice & Cold Storage Co., Ltd.
Sole Distributors for KRAFT PRODUCTS.



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2 Queen's Rd. C. Telephone 3508/9

AN HISTORIC STATEMENT

Britain To Quit India By June, 1948

Lord Mountbatten To Take Over As Viceroy

London, Feb. 20.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, in the House of Commons today said the British Government would transfer power to Indian hands by a date not later than June, 1948. Mr. Attlee also said that the present Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell, would resign and that Lord Louis Mountbatten would succeed him, taking over the task of transferring the constitution to India.

The present state of uncertainty in India was fraught with danger, Mr. Attlee said, and could not be indefinitely prolonged. "His Majesty's Government wish to make it clear that it is their definite intention to take the necessary steps to effect transference of power into responsible Indian hands by a date not later than June, 1948," stated the Prime Minister.

Legislation would be introduced in due course to give effect to the final transfer of power in India. The British Government did not intend to hand over powers and obligations of the Indian states under paramountcy to any government of British India.

Although final transfer might not take place until June, 1948, preparatory measures must be put in hand in advance. "The British Government will negotiate agreements on matters arising out of the transfer with representatives of those to whom they propose to transfer power. It is important that the efficiency of the civil administration be maintained and the defence of India provided for."

As the transfer of power proceeded, it would become progressively more difficult to carry out the letter of the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935. "However, the British Government believe that British commercial and industrial interests in India can look forward to a fair field for their enterprise under the new conditions."

Britain would continue to do all in its power to further India's well-being, Mr. Attlee said.

Attlee-Churchill Exchange

London, Feb. 20.
After reading the White Paper, Mr. Attlee spoke of Lord Wavell, who was appointed Viceroy in 1943. He said:

"It was agreed that this should be a wartime appointment. Lord Wavell has discharged this high office during this very difficult period with devotion and high sense of duty. It has, however, seemed that the opening of this new and final phase in India would be an appropriate time to terminate this war appointment. His Majesty has been pleased to appoint as a successor to Lord Wavell, Rear-Admiral Viscount Mountbatten of Burma, who will be entrusted with the task of transferring to Indian hands the responsibility for the Government of British India in a manner that will best ensure the future happiness and prosperity of India."

"He will remain on the active list in accordance with his wishes that his future employment in the Royal Navy shall not be prejudiced. I am sure the House will wish him well in his task."

In conclusion the Prime Minister announced the conferment of a peerage on Viscount Wavell. Immediately Mr. Churchill, the Opposition leader, got up to ask: "Will the Prime Minister be the termination of the appointment of Viscount Wavell (Opposition cheers)? Will he indicate to us what differences or divergences or disagreements have arisen between the Viceroy and the British Government?"

Mr. Attlee: "No. I have stated the announcement with regard to

the termination of the Viceroyalty of Lord Wavell. I do not propose to add to it."

No Precedent

Mr. Churchill: "Surely we are entitled to be treated in a reasonable manner? Is it not a fact that if Lord Wavell's Viceroyalty had ended with the war it would have ended 18 months ago and that it had ended after three years it would have ended in June last year? What then is the reason which has led to the removal and dismissal of the Viceroy in full conduct of Government policy (Opposition cheers)?"

Mr. Attlee: "Mr. Churchill knows very well that Lord Wavell was not appointed for a fixed term. As has been stated, it was thought that in the changed phase of the Indian problem it was suitable to make a change and I do not propose to add anything to that statement."

Mr. Churchill: "May I ask in all humility, because the House is entitled to a reasonable explanation of the reasons for this momentous new departure? There must be some reasons. Is there any reason why it should be concealed from the House? Why should we not be told the truth (Opposition cheers)?"

Mr. Attlee: "I have already stated the reason. . . . (Opposition cries of 'What Reason?' and 'No reason, at all!') 'Wait a moment!' the Prime Minister went on. 'I have already stated the reason in the statement. I made that we regarded it as a suitable time to make a change owing to a change in the phasing of the Indian problem. I am not aware of any precedent for such a request.'"

Mr. Churchill: "What are the reasons which make this time appropriate for a change? Surely the Prime Minister did not wake up one morning and say, 'Oh, let us get another Viceroy.' The Prime Minister must have some purpose or reason behind it and we have a right to know what is that purpose or reason. This was greeted with loud shouts from the Opposition benches which developed into a chorus of 'Answer, answer, answer.'"

Mounting Up roar

Mr. Clement Davis, Liberal leader in the House of Commons, asked for an assurance there would be a full debate at the earliest possible moment. Did the statement mean that the Government had now fixed a definite date when they should transfer responsibility to the Government of India, whether or not agreement had been arrived at between the Congress and the Muslim League?

Mr. Attlee: "The Government are perfectly willing and would indeed welcome a debate—a full debate on all these matters."

Mr. Churchill again rose and

asked for some reasons why "an extremely important executive action" was taken. He said it must have been animated by some motive accessible to human intelligence.

Mr. Attlee retorted, with obvious anger: "When Mr. Churchill was the Prime Minister he made a good many changes both in military and civil appointments and I am not aware that he gave the reasons for any of them (Labour cheers). . . . I never understood that he thought that an obligation rested on him to come to the House and explain why changes were made."

Mr. Churchill, as excitement and the uproar mounted in the House, answered: "Here we are dealing with a great policy. Are we not dealing with a policy which has been serving the Government in most intimate relations and who is now dismissed? May we not know what divergences are the reason for his dismissal and the appointment of another? Surely this is a matter which in the history of this House of Commons has never been declined!"

No Drifting

Sir John Anderson, former Governor of Bengal, brought the House back to a quieter atmosphere by asking whether Mr. Attlee did not appreciate the extreme complexities of the issues involved and the utter impossibility of dealing with them in an hour's session. "Would it, in fact, be possible to hand over responsibility to an authority capable of dealing with India as a whole?"

Mr. Attlee: "People are still thinking they can hang on and let things drift. We are against this drift. We want definite action."

The Conservatives laughed jeeringly at this and there were many shouts of "Settle," while the Government members cheered the declaration. Mr. Attlee, continuing, said: "We want to bring the uncertainty to a close."

Sir John Anderson: "Mr. Attlee has not dealt with my point; my point about the fixed time limit. How can that be reconciled with the uncertainty which must continue for a prolonged and unknown period?"

Mr. Attlee: "That is the reason we put in the date. I think this is a point which would be far better developed in debate than in question and answer."

Mr. Beveridge, Blackburn (Lab.): "Will Mr. Attlee make it plain that the British Government, while very anxious to fulfil the promise of self-government which the coalition government gave to India, does not seek to abandon all responsibility for the security of India?"

Mr. Attlee: "I have made our position clear. We are not going to obtain a settled government in India. You cannot obtain that by long continued uncertainty. As it is the policy of this country, and I think of this House, that Indians should become responsible and run their own government, I think it is time they

ALLIANCE NOT NECESSARY

London, England, Feb. 21.
Lord Halifax, Britain's wartime Ambassador to the United States, said the "association of friendship and understanding" which links Britain and the United States is stronger than any treaty alliance which might be written.

In an address to Leeds University, the diplomat told his audience that it is doubtful if an acceptable alliance is possible now but in any event it is not necessary. The friendship of the two nations, he added, is a source of strength to the United Nations. Associated Press.

He faced up to the fact of that situation.

More Rumpus

Mr. Richard Butler (Cons.), former Under-Secretary of State for India, asked was it the Government's intention to bring legislation before the House before June 1948 and did that not give very much less than a year for all difficulties to be resolved? If they were not resolved was it still the intention to go ahead and hand over power to small units without proper consideration of the Central Government and, in fact, hand over India to chaos?

There was a renewed uproar here and Mr. Attlee declared, hotly, "It is not the intention to hand over India to chaos. I think these points could be much better developed in a debate."

Mr. Churchill: "Is no answer to be given to the question of whether there has been any differences or divergences (uproar from Members) between the Government and the Viceroy?"

In spite of repeated shouts of "answer, answer," from the Conservative benches, the Prime Minister did not reply. At this point the Deputy Speaker intervened to say the matter could now well await the present debate. Mr. Henderson Stewart (Lib. Nat.): "I would like to ask a question which has nothing to do with this matter. Does the Prime Minister realise that his reluctance to answer a reasonable question is a matter which is the business of the Government benches?"

The Deputy Speaker again intervened to end the discussion but, amid further derisive cheers from the Government benches, Mr. Henderson Stewart held his ground and said: "I want to ask a fresh point. Does not the Prime Minister's refusal to answer a question which must lead to the view that sharp differences of opinion have arisen? (Opposition cheers). Are we to understand that the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, is to be permitted or not to make a public statement?" (Conservative cheers and shouts of "answer").

Communist Draws Laughs

Amidst a further uproar, Mr. William Gallacher (Communist) rose to ask whether it was keeping within the rules of order and procedure of the House that the leader of the Opposition could ask a question 15 times and the leader of the Communists could not ask one simple question? (Loud laughter). Was it not possible to ask, in view of the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition, if no Labour member or trade union leader was considered for this important appointment? (Loud laughter).

There was no answer.

Mr. Churchill: "I submit that I am entitled to ask a question on this momentous statement. Cannot the Prime Minister tell us whether Lord Wavell is to be permitted to make a statement on this position of his?"

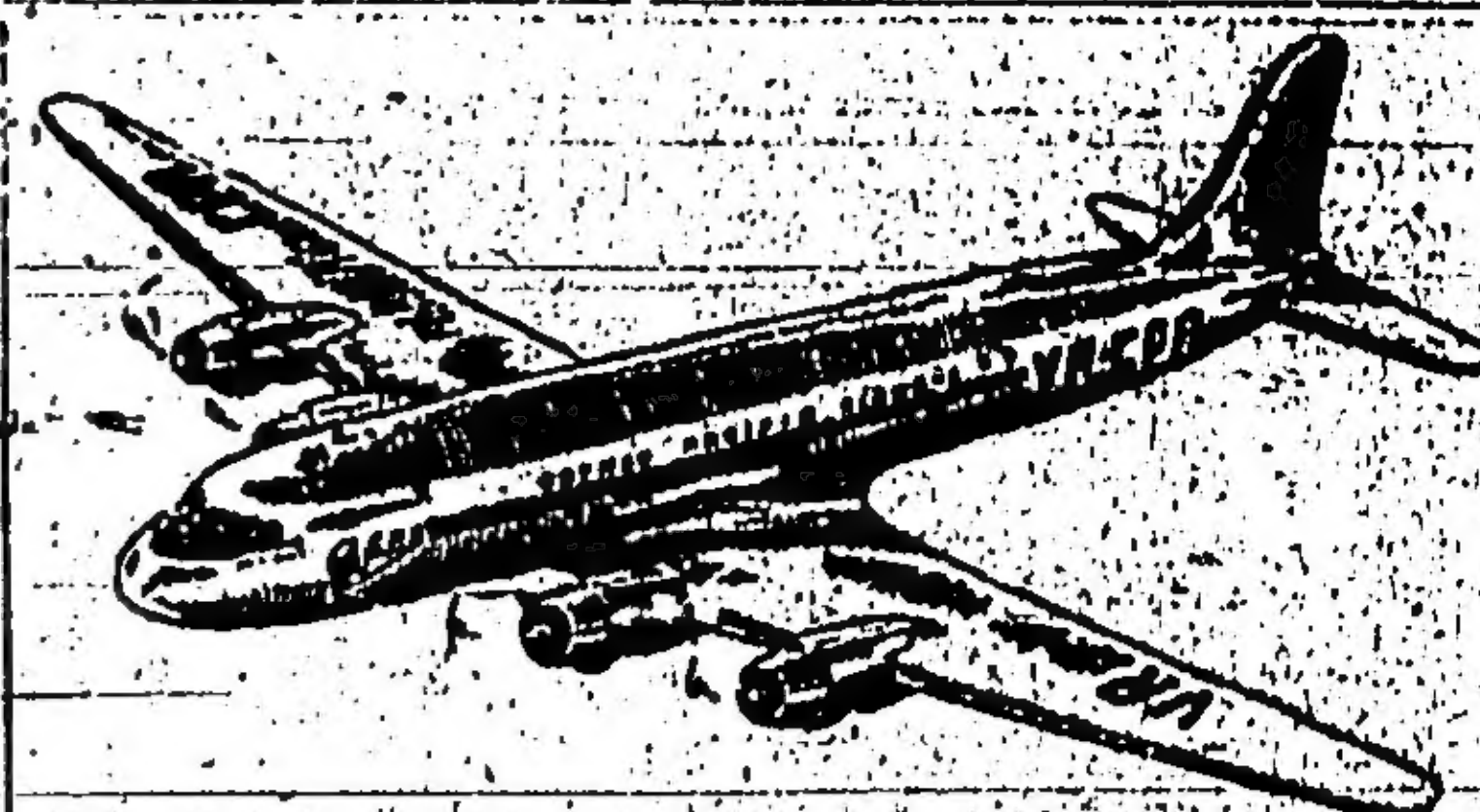
Mr. Attlee still made no reply.

Mr. Will Nally (Lab.) asked why, whenever an important statement was made from the front bench which involved matters in which all members of the House were vitally interested, time and again an overwhelming part of the time available was taken up by Mr. Churchill?

There were cheers and counter cheers at this. The House then proceeded to the ordinary business of the day. Front Bench Conservative Opposition at the India debate in the Lords met tonight immediately after the Government's statement on India, and decided to table a motion at the India debate in the Lords next Tuesday that the decision of His Majesty's Government at the India debate in the Indian Government in June, 1948, under the conditions which appear to be in conflict with the previous declarations of the Government and without any provisions for the protection of minorities and for the discharge of their other obligations is likely to imperil the peace and prosperity of India.

Tory Anxiety
The motion has been tabled in the name of Lord Templewood, who, as Sir Bernard Horne, was formerly Secretary of State for India.

The peers will decide on Tuesday whether to press the motion for division against the Government. Conservatives feel apprehensive over India and some feared that the action of the Labour Government has done more than any other single action to divide the Conservative ranks.



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